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(b) whether proposals have been received for opening a yard at Baikampadi;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, when the yard will be opened;

(d) whether the fishermen of Baikampadi offered to put up the necessary buildings and fence at their own cost;

(e) whether the owners of land are willing to lease it to Government free of rent; and

(f) whether, in view of these favourable circumstances, the Government propose to comply with the request of the fishermen to open a yard at least during 1929–30?

A.—(a), (b), (d) & (e) Yes.

(c) & (f) The Government intended to consider the proposal for the opening of a fish-curing yard at Baikampadi in connexion with the budget of 1929–30. As the Director of Fisheries expressed a doubt that, if the yard were opened in 1929–30, the fishermen might not be willing to put up the buildings which they originally promised to construct, the Government considered it advisable to get an assurance from the fishermen on the point and accordingly asked the Director to ascertain and report whether the fishermen would be willing to provide the buildings at their cost next year or agree to pay the cost by means of a cess, if provided at Government expense in the first instance. The Director's reply was not received in time for placing the proposal before the Finance Committee early this month. The proposal could not therefore be considered in connexion with the budget of 1929-30. The Director of Fisheries has been requested to resubmit the proposal again with full details for consideration as a budget scheme for 1930-31. If the fishermen want a yard earlier they have been advised to open one and run it as a private yard till next year obtaining salt from the department at concession rates.

Mr. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib:—"With reference to clause (a), may I know why it was closed?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"It was not working satisfactorily."

Supervision of fishermen co-operative societies.

*1204 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the fishermen co-operative societies on the West Coast are under the direct supervision of the Fisheries department and that this work is treated as a part of the department's socio-economic work;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether any special staff has been engaged for the work of supervision of co-operative societies;

(c) whether the existing staff of inspectors and sub-inspectors have other important duties which leave them no time either to supervise co-operative societies or inspect Fisheries schools; and

(*d*) whether proposals for providing necessary staff for socio-economic work have been received by Government and if so, what orders have been passed thereon?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. This work is attended to by the regular inspecting staff as part of their duties.

(*c*) & (*d*) Proposals have been made by the Director of Fisheries for strengthening the inspecting staff on the ground that the existing staff is unable to devote adequate attention to the inspection of fish-curing yards, fishermen schools and co-operative societies. No orders have yet been passed on the proposals pending receipt of the report of the Madras Fisheries Committee.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know when the Fisheries Committee had its last meeting and when it is expected to submit its report?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"I cannot say off-hand; I want notice, Sir."

Industries

Development of the coir industry in South Kanara.

* 1205 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Department of Industries has at any time investigated the possibilities of developing the coir industry in South Kanara; and

(*b*) if not, whether it is proposed to do anything in the matter hereafter at least?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The Special Officer on the Survey of the Cottage Industries has dealt with the coir industry in the South Kanara district and his report will shortly be taken up for examination.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the Special Officer has made any suggestion for the development of this industry?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB:—"May I know what is his suggestion?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"It is published in the report and the hon. Member may verify it."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB:—"May I know when the report was taken into consideration?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"As early as practicable."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know whether the Minister has perused this report?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"He must."